

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated March 9, 2005, claims 1-7 were pending. Of those claims, claims 5-7 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b). Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected.

In this Amendment, claim 1 have been amended to include the limitations recited in allowable claim 3, and canceled claims 2 and 3. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Based on this Amendment, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) has been rendered moot. Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection and favorable consideration thereof.

Applicants have also amended the title of the invention in response to the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully solicited.

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

Application No.: 10/652,039

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recognition under 37 C.F.R. 10.9(b)

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